(5) The ryots were poor and required pecuniary aid in the shape of loans. The provisions of the Agricultural Improvement Loans Regulation were not being worked to the benefit of the people, because the Tahsildars were entrusted with the work of granting loans. On account of their multifarious duties they could not properly attend to the work. The only solution was to transfer the work to the Agricultural Department. The Director might be given the power of granting loans up to Rs. 2,000.

In regard to the promotion of industries, the Government should invest capital and carry on some industries and thus encourage and induce people to undertake them. He then mentioned that the manufacture of the following articles might be taken up as the necessary raw materials were available in sufficient quantities in the State, *viz.*, soap, candles, fire matches, paper, sugar and pencil.

The Member then explained the need for the development of salt industry as an indigenous concern. Another way of enriching the State was the proper utilisation of the minor forest produce of the State. The other ways of augmenting the revenue were, according to the Member, (1) the levy of export duty on rubber, (2) the imposition of an income tax on Government Officers, Vakils, Merchants and others getting an annual income of not less than Rs. 1,500 and (3) the revival of the export duty on timber.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

55. Steps to be taken for the development of the cultivation of food products.

Mr. K. Kali Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) made the following suggestions:—

(1) To improve the means of producing food-stuffs in the State, there should be a Committee in each Division composed of the Conservator of Forests, the Director of Agriculture, the Dewan Peishkar and a few of the leading ryots of the Division.

(2) On account of the high rate of *thadivila* and *tharavila* many people were kept back from registering *puduval* lands. If the high rates could not be reduced, Government lands should be granted for cultivation subject to proper safeguards to protect the interests of Government.

(3) No arable lands should lie uncultivated. They should be cultivated by Government.

(4) Some lands fit for cultivation in Reserved forests had been disafforested. More of such lands should be thrown open for registry.

(5) Tracts of forest lands denuded of timber from Reserved forests and swampy lands fit for cultivation should be granted for purposes of cultivation.

(6) *Punja* lands which were now cultivated every other year should be made cultivable annually, and adequate aid should be afforded to the ryots by Government for the purpose.

Dewan's reply.—A Committee composed of officials and non-officials will be formed for the Trivandrum Division to look into the whole question and submit a report to Government.

56. Agriculture.

Mr. M. K. Raman Pillai (Member, Tiruvalla taluk) regretted that Travancore had to depend upon foreign countries for the paddy required for consumption and suggested the following measures for improving the situation:—

(1) An Economic Committee should be formed, composed of officers and agriculturists, for conducting an agricultural survey to determine the quality and suitability of the soils and climate in different parts of the State to the growth of different crops, and submit a report.

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